GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:63
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2016
Import of Wheat
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has relaxed wheat import norms, if so, the details thereof indicating the increased quantum of imports allowed during the current year in comparison to the previous years;
(b) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is holding surplus stock of 29 million tonnes of wheat as against its obligation of 20 million tonnes under the Public Distribution System during the current year, if so, the details thereof along with the fate of remaining stock in view of import of cheaper wheat; and
(c) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has nearly 24 million tonnes of rotten/damaged wheat stock, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)
(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO 63 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 01.03.2016 IN THE LOK SABHA
(a): No Madam. The Government has not relaxed import norms of wheat. Import duty on wheat @ 10% was imposed with effect from 07.08.2015, which has subsequently been raised to 25% with effect from 19.10.2015.
(b): The stock position of wheat in Central Pool as on 01.01.2016 is 23.79 million tonnes, against the stocking norm of 13.80 million tonnes on 1st January. By 25.02.2016 the stock position was 18.94 Million Tonnes. The Government has directed Food Corporation of India (FCI) to dispose off the surplus wheat over and above stocking norms under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) OMSS (D). During the period 01.04.2015 to 26.02.2016, FCI has disposed off 6.68 million tonnes wheat under OMSS (D).
(c): No Madam. Food Corporation of India (FCI) has only 150.734 tonnes of damaged / non-issuable stock of wheat as on 01.02.2016. Wheat being a perishable commodity, some quantity become non-issuable due to various reasons, like, transit damage, natural calamities, very long storage, etc.
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